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Digitizing Archival Collections: The Western Round-Up Student Newspaper Project

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Digitizing Archival Collections:
The Western Round-Up and Western Weekly Student Newspapers

OVGTS 2008 Annual Conference
May 15, 2008

http://digital.lib.muohio.edu/roundup

Presenters:
Jacky Johnson
Western College Archivist
Elías Tzoc
Digital Initiatives Librarian
Overview

1. Background Information
   1.1. Western College History
   1.2. Patron Request and Access
   1.3. Technology and History
   1.4. Communication and Customer Service

2. Building the Digital Collections (databases)
   2.1. Digitization
   2.2. Web-interface (CONTENTdm)
   2.3. Western Weekly
   2.4. What’s next?

3. Questions
Western College Memorial Archives is dedicated to acquiring and preserving materials related to Western College for Women (1853-1974) history.

The Western Round-Up newspaper was published by the students from 1930-1971.

When the College closed in 1974 the only way to access the newspaper was microfiche or a visit to the archives. There was no online access.
• This database was created because patrons Western Alumnae were requesting online access to the newspapers.

• Patrons were in disbelief when told that there was no access and in some cases did not want to consider using microfiche.

• Western Alumnae/Patron took the lead in requesting the Western Round-Up newspaper database.
• This newspaper documented the events and news of Western College for Women.

• It was important to digitize the collection to give researchers and alumnae access.

• Digitization of this collection also placed the collection in digital and a permanent format.
• Technology changed the and improved the access to end-users.

• This database improved communication between the Archivist and the Western Alumnae, researchers of Women studies and current students at Miami University as well as other researchers.
Communication

- When you allow patrons access it opens lines of communication and brings in new users to the collection.

- Patrons can do more independent research by using the database themselves and not having to rely on the Archivist to research their inquiry primarily by having to use the newspapers in the Archives.
Customer Service for Patrons

- Patrons are happier and are able to conduct research their own genealogy inquiries.

- Libraries and Archivist must collaborate and continue to explore new avenues of accessibility to their archival collections.

- Customer Service is giving the patrons what they are requesting in the ways that are best for them to help to promote your organization.
Digitization

1. Scanning microfilm into TIFF files
   * Canon Microfilm Scanner 300
   * Capture Perfect 1.0

2. Processing TIFF files in Photoshop
   Clean up the images by cropping out the black areas and content on the adjacent page and keeping the same width and height for all images in one issue.
Digitization

3. Perform OCR on processed TIFF files and upload to CONTENTdm

4. Approve uploaded files and edit metadata

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Web-interface (CONTENTdm)

1. Splash page and header
2. Browsing and metadata display

http://doyle.lib.muohio.edu/cdm4/westernnews/
http://doyle.lib.muohio.edu/cdm4/browse.php
3. Searching (item and collection levels)

4. Image and complete metadata display
Western Weekly

1. File conversion (TIFF > DjVu)

2. PROs
   * file size
   * zoom and pan
   * customization flexibility
   * open source

http://doyle.lib.muohio.edu/cdm4/weekly/
3. CONs
   * not full-text searchable
   * not supported by CONTENTdm
   * lossy at its highest compression
   * requires a plug-in
What’s next?

1. Article segmentation
2. Metadata at article levels
3. Index of people, places, etc
4. Usability test
Questions?

Thanks!